United Nations A/BUR/64/SR.2

General Assembly
Sixty-fourth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
8 February 2010

Original: English

General Committee

Summary record of the 2nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 24 November 2009, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Treki (President of the General Assembly) ..... (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

Contents

Organization of the sixty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (*continued*)

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by France and Malta

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by Azerbaijan, Benin, Colombia, Costa Rica, Haiti, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Philippines, Portugal, Slovenia, Timor-Leste and Tanzania

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by the Secretary-General

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia and Ukraine

Other matters

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

09-61828 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

Organization of the sixty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by France and Malta (A/64/232)

1. **The Chairman** drew attention to the request submitted by France and Malta for the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an additional item entitled "Observer status for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean in the General Assembly" (A/64/232). The representative of Malta had asked to address the Committee in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

2. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Borg (Malta) took a place at the Committee table.*

3. **Mr. Borg** (Malta) said that the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) had been established in 2006 under the auspices of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), as part of a process of political, socio-economic and environmental cooperation that had been in place since 1990. IPU, had already been granted observer status at the General Assembly. Since its inception, PAM had nurtured relations with the United Nations system. In September, a high-level PAM delegation had visited New York to meet with senior officials of the Secretariat and earlier that year, the Secretary-General of the United Nations had met with the Secretary-General of PAM in Malta.

4. In cooperation with the United Nations, PAM was currently holding a round table of members of parliament from around the world in order to send a strong message to the Copenhagen Summit. A similar meeting would be held to support the Middle East peace process. The reports and resolutions that PAM adopted represented an important contribution to contemporary debates and he therefore hoped that PAM would be granted observer status.

5. **The Chairman** said that the representative of Turkey had asked to participate in the discussion. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. He took it that the Committee wished to accede to that request.

6. *It was so decided.*

7. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Ms. Bademli Angel (Turkey) took a place at the Committee table.*

8. **Ms. Bademli Angel** (Turkey) said that Turkey had just hosted the fourth plenary session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, during which several resolutions and reports had been adopted on topics which were also of concern to the United Nations. The granting of observer status to PAM would establish a mutually beneficial relationship that would facilitate the work of both organizations.

9. **Mr. Parham** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had no objection, in principle, to including the agenda item, but it did have concerns regarding the timing of the request. If accepted, it should not be regarded as setting a precedent, for such requests should be considered at the beginning of the session so that the Sixth Committee could plan its programme of work accordingly. However, provided that the Secretariat could confirm that there would be no budgetary implications, his delegation would agree to the proposal.

10. **Ms. McLeod** (United States) said that her delegation shared the concerns expressed by the representative of the United Kingdom and would prefer to see consideration of the request deferred until the next session.

11. **Mr. Botnaru** (DGACM/General Assembly and ECOSOC Affairs Division) said that should the General Committee decide to recommend that an additional item be referred to the Sixth Committee, the General Assembly would need to take an oral decision to reconvene that Committee. The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management would ensure that there were no programme budget implications.

12. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda under heading 1 of an additional item entitled "Observer status for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean in the General Assembly".*

13. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the additional item should be allocated to the Sixth Committee.*

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by Azerbaijan, Benin, Colombia, Costa Rica, Haiti, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Philippines, Portugal, Slovenia, Timor-Leste and Tanzania (A/64/233)

14. **The Chairman** drew attention to the request submitted by Azerbaijan, Benin, Colombia, Costa Rica, Haiti, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Philippines, Portugal, Slovenia, Timor-Leste and Tanzania for inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an additional item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration" (A/54/233). The representative of the Philippines had asked to address the Committee in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

15. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Davide (Philippines) took a place at the Committee table.*

16. **Mr. Davide** (Philippines) said that although the International Organization for Migration (IOM) had been granted observer status in 1992 and although General Assembly resolution 51/148 had requested the Secretary-General to foster systematic consultations on matters of common interest, there was, as yet, no mechanism which would allow IOM to report on cooperation between IOM and the United Nations, despite the growing magnitude of international migration. The proposal was intended to remedy that situation by establishing a mechanism whereby IOM would report on its cooperation with the United Nations as part of the biennial consolidated reports submitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General under the title "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations".

17. **Mr. Parham** (United Kingdom) said that, although initiated by IOM, the proposal had yet to be discussed and agreed to by the IOM Council. He therefore proposed that consideration of the proposal be postponed.

18. **Ms. McLeod** (United States) and **Mr. Grauls** (Belgium) supported the proposal.

19. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee wished to defer discussion of the item to a later stage.

20. *It was so decided.*

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by the Secretary-General (A/64/234)

21. **The Chairman** drew attention to the request submitted by the Secretary-General for the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an additional item entitled "United Nations University".

22. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda under heading B of an additional item entitled "United Nations University".*

23. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the additional item should be allocated to the Second Committee.*

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia and Ukraine (A/64/235)

24. **The Chairperson** drew attention to the request submitted by Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia and Ukraine for the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an additional item entitled "Observer status in the General Assembly for the Council of Presidents of the General Assembly" (A/64/235).

25. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda under heading I of an additional item entitled "Observer status in the General Assembly for the Council of Presidents of the General Assembly".*

26. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the additional item should be allocated to the Sixth Committee.*

Other matters

27. **The Chairman** recalled that, at its previous meeting, the Committee had decided to postpone consideration of the inclusion of the item entitled "Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte", as reflected in paragraph 50 of the first report of the General Committee to the General Assembly. He proposed that the Committee should consider that matter immediately.

28. *It was so decided.*

29. **The Chairman** said that negotiations between the Comorian and French delegations had been held under the supervision of the President of the General Assembly and it had been agreed, in principle, that the

item would be included on the agenda, provided that it would not be discussed that year.

30. **Mr. Araud** (France) recalled that the Presidents of the two countries had established a high-level working group for a comprehensive consideration of the question of Mayotte and the Comoros. Earlier that year, the President of the Comoros had reaffirmed that the issue should be addressed in a bilateral context. France was determined to foster that innovative process. However, including the item on the agenda would make the search for solutions more complex. He therefore proposed deferring inclusion of the item to the next session of the General Assembly.

31. **Mr. Toihiri** (Comoros) recalled that according to the agreements concluded between France and the Comoros in June 1973 the results of the referendum on independence would be counted as a whole. Although an ample majority of voters had opted for independence, France had seen fit to count the results island by island.

32. General Assembly resolution 3385 (XXX) admitting the Comoros to membership of the United Nations had reaffirmed the necessity of respecting the unity and territorial integrity of the Comoro Archipelago, composed of the islands of Anjouan, Grande-Comore, Mayotte and Mohéli. Between 1976 and 1995, the General Assembly had regularly adopted resolutions on the topic and had included the question of the Comorian island of Mayotte in its agenda.

33. In 1995, France had called for bilateral consultations and for the item to be omitted from the final agenda of the General Assembly. The Comoros had agreed in order to facilitate negotiations. In March 2009, France had held a referendum to grant Mayotte the status of Overseas Department thereby unilaterally breaking its tacit agreement with the Comoros.

34. During the general debate (A/64/PV.5), the President of the Comoros had made a painful concession by putting forward the idea of one country, two administrations. However, the attitude of France had been at best inattentive, at worst somewhat disdainful. His delegation therefore wished to have the question included once again on the agenda of the General Assembly.

35. **Mr. Araud** (France) said that his delegation had never been disdainful of the position of the Comoros. France had no interest in maintaining sovereignty over Mayotte; however, the vast majority of the island's population had expressed their wish to remain within the French Republic. That complex situation must be handled in accordance with the constitutional order of France. For that very reason, his country wished to engage in bilateral consultations with the Comoros. With a view to reaching agreement in the course of the current year, he therefore proposed that consideration of the issue should be deferred.

36. **Mr. Toihiri** (Comoros) said that the instructions he had received from his Government were very clear. The bilateral consultations had been to no avail. The Chairman's suggestion seemed very reasonable.

37. **Mr. Cabral** (Guinea-Bissau) agreed, noting that the suggestion that the item be added to the agenda on the understanding that it would not be discussed offered a dynamic compromise that would encourage the parties to reach agreement.

38. **Mr. Parham** (United Kingdom) said that since the question was a sensitive one, it would make more sense to allow more time for bilateral consultations while making it clear that the item was not on the agenda.

39. **Mr. Grauls** (Belgium) said that it would be preferable to defer the inclusion of the item until the outcome of the bilateral consultations.

40. **Mr. Le Roux** (South Africa) said that his delegation strongly supported the position of the Comoros.

41. **The Chairman** said that he took it that the Committee wished to recommend the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an additional item entitled "Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte" under heading A (Maintenance of international peace and security), on the understanding that there would be no consideration of the item by the General Assembly. That would give the parties time to engage in consultations. On the basis of his discussions with the parties, he was optimistic that a solution could be found.

42. *It was so decided.*

43. **Mr. Araud** (France), noting that the Chairman had acknowledged that the Committee had not yet reached consensus, said that, out of respect for him, his delegation had made a concession. The agreement was strictly conditional on the understanding that the item

would not be debated and that no resolution on it would be considered. The inclusion of the item did not constitute a precedent for future sessions.

44. **The Chairman** called on both countries to engage promptly in consultations.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.